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(54) **Sheet prepared for binding, and adhesive band for binding loose sheets**

(57) The invention relates to a sheet (1; 11; 21; 31) prepared beforehand for the binding, characterised in that it provides a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip (2; 12; 22; 32) along at least one of its edges, or close to the same edge, and a silicone material band (3; 13; 23; 33), releasably placed on said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip (2; 12; 22; 32) and having at least a portion (4; 14; 24; 34) not coupled to said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip (2; 12; 22; 32) to grasp the silicone band (3; 13; 23; 33), during its removal and the binding.

The invention further relates to an adhesive band for binding loose sheets.

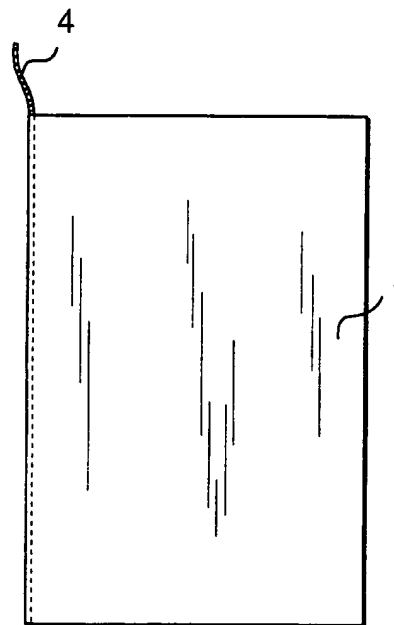


FIG. 1

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a sheet prepared for the binding.

[0002] More specifically, the invention relates to a sheet providing a lateral or upper strip, that allows to bind the same coupling with other sheets and/or a binding cover.

[0003] The invention further relates to an adhesive band for binding loose sheets.

[0004] As it is well known, in the office working it often occurs to have to or to wish to bind different sheets, printed by the computer, written by typewriter or containing drawings and graphical representations, in order to confer to the work a more proper format.

[0005] Obviously, except for particular cases, it is not always possible to refer to an bookbinder outside the office, involving remarkable costs and not negligible time to end the work.

[0006] Therefore, in many offices binding machines are provided, said machines being specifically studied and realised to this aim.

[0007] Sheets are placed within a cover, prepared along its back portion with a heat activated glue or both sides adhesive tape strip.

[0008] Sheets and cover are then placed into a binding machine, provided with a heating system, by electrical resistance or other system, dissolving the glue or both sides adhesive tape provided in the cover within which the sheets are provided.

[0009] At the end of this operation, it is necessary to wait for the solidification of the glue or both sides adhesive tape, until when the binding has been finished.

[0010] It is well evident that said solution, even if more advantageous than the one providing the sending of the text to be bound at the bookbinder, has many drawbacks.

[0011] First of all, reference must be made to the initial expenses to buy the binding machine, expense that even if not so high, cannot be completely negligible.

[0012] However, most relevant problem is undoubtedly that of time necessary to make and complete the binding.

[0013] Furthermore, it must be taken into consideration that it is impossible to make many bindings at the same time, so that in some cases time is even longer.

[0014] Also other systems exist requiring the drilling of the sheets, the use of plastic rings or spiral and suitable machines for drilling and applying the same. They are systems having all the above problems.

[0015] In this situation, it can be introduced the solution according to the present invention allowing to obtain perfectly bound documents.

[0016] Main object of the present invention is that of providing a solution allowing the bonding of loose sheets in a very quick and reliable way.

[0017] Another object of the present invention is that of providing a solution for binding loose sheet extremely

cheap.

[0018] These and other objects are obtained according to the present invention suggesting a sheet having along one edge and adhesive strip, protected by a silicone band, realised in such a way to be grasped for its removal during the binding.

[0019] Furthermore, the solution according to the present invention proposes a band prepared with a glue layer in order to make it adhering to a paper sheet to be bound with other sheets by the same glue.

[0020] It is therefore specific object of the present invention a sheet prepared beforehand for the binding, characterised in that it provides a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip along at least one of its edges, or close to the same edge, and a silicone material band, releasably placed on said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip and having at least a portion not coupled to said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip to grasp the silicone band during its removal and the binding.

[0021] Furthermore, according to the invention, said sheet can provide said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip, and the relevant silicone band on both sides, on opposite surfaces.

[0022] The glue or both sides adhesive tape strip on the sheets according to the invention can be provided on a lateral edge or on an upper or lower edge.

[0023] Still according to the invention, said sheets are realised as a continuous snap out, provided with lateral dragging bands, said grasping portion of the silicone band being coupled by weakening lines with the band of the following sheet.

[0024] Always according to the invention, said silicone band is larger than said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip, and can be folded outwardly during the bonding, said portion of the silicone band larger than the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip being the grasping portion.

[0025] In a preferred embodiment of the sheet according to the invention, to make its binding, it is superimposed to other sheets to be bound, being them prepared or not according to the invention, and thus the different projecting grasping portion are grasped and drawn at the same time to uncover the various glue or both sides adhesive tape strips.

[0026] The present invention further provides a device for packaging and binding sheets, providing at least two 90° projecting sides upon which resting the sheets to be bound.

[0027] Preferably, said device provides a silicone zone in correspondence of the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip of the sheets to avoid that a sheet attaches to the same device during the binding.

[0028] It is furthermore within the scope of the present invention an adhesive band to bind loose sheets comprising a silicone material support, having a substantially elongated shape, slightly attachable by the glue, alternatively providing on one side portions provided with cold activated glue and shorter portions without glue.

[0029] Preferably, according to the invention, said band is continuous, at the end of each section the support providing a cut facilitation or breaking lines and/or an optical or mechanical signal to indicate the cutting point to suitable apparatuses to automatically apply it on sheets.

[0030] The function of portions without glue is that of being out of the sheet to provide the opportunity of an easy removal of the silicone support which after the application of the glue on the sheet has the function of protecting from eventual gluing not wished before the binding.

[0031] Preferably, according to the invention, said band is wounded, the outer surface of the support band being preferably refractory to the glue.

[0032] Alternatively, according to the invention, said support can provide, instead of the glue portions, both sides adhesive portions, i.e. a second support comprised of any suitable material providing glue on both sides, one of which is destined to adhere to the sheet to be bound, the second one being destined to adhere to the sheet that during the binding will be coupled to the sheet providing the band.

[0033] Always according to the invention, said band can be applied on both sides of a sheet.

[0034] Furthermore according to the invention, said band can be applied manually, or by a suitable device, provided along the path within the printer.

[0035] The present invention will be now described, for illustrative but not limitative purposes, according to its preferred embodiments, with particular reference to the figures of the enclosed drawings, wherein:

figure 1 is a first front view of a sheet according to the invention;

figure 2 is a second front view of the sheet of figure 1;

figure 3 shows the sheet of figure 2 with the protection partially removed;

figure 4 is a first front view of a second sheet according to the invention;

figure 5 is a second front view of the sheet of figure 4;

figure 6 shows the sheet of figure 4 with the protection partially removed;

figure 7 is a first front view of a third sheet according to the invention;

figure 8 is a second front view of the sheet of figure 7;

figure 9 shows the sheet of figure 7 with the grasping portion laterally provided;

figure 10 shows a group of sheets according to figure 7 ready for binding;

figure 11 shows the sheets of figure 7 on the device of figure 19;

figure 12 is a front view of a fourth sheet according to the invention;

figure 13 shows the sheet of figure 12 with the protection partially removed;

figure 14 is a front view of a further sheet according to the invention, for the continuous feeding;

figure 15 is a front view of the sheet of figure 14 with the protection partially removed;

figure 16 is a perspective view of the sheet of figure 14;

figure 17 is a front view of a fifth sheet according to the invention, also for the continuous feeding;

figure 18 shows the sheet of figure 17 with the protection partially removed;

figure 19 shows a device for a proper positioning of the sheets according to the invention;

figure 20 shows a group of sheets according to figure 1 ready for binding;

figure 21 shows the sheets of figure 20 on the device of figure 19

figure 22 is a section view of a first embodiment of a band according to the invention;

figure 23 is a section view of a second embodiment of a band according to the invention;

figure 24 shows a portion of a band according to the invention;

figure 25 shows a sheet having the band according to the invention;

figure 26 shows a plurality of sheets prepared beforehand with the band according to the invention;

figure 27 shows a device for the proper positioning of sheets provided with bands according to the invention; and

figure 28 shows the sheets of figure 26 into the device of figure 27 ready for binding.

[0036] Observing first figures 1 - 3, it is shown a first kind of sheet 1 according to the invention, providing a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 2 along an edge, covered by a silicone band 3 having a portion projecting beyond the sheet (see figures 1 and 2).

[0037] Figure 3 shows how it is possible to remove the silicone band 3 to expose the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 2.

[0038] The sheet 11 of figures 4, 5 and 6 provides the same kind of features of sheet 1 of the preceding figures, but in this case the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 12 is provided on both sides of the sheet 11, with two silicone bands 13, one for each glue or both sides adhesive tape strip and the relevant grasping portions 14 projecting from the sheet 11.

[0039] The double glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 12 is provided in order to be able to bind together with the sheet 11 also sheets not prepared according to the present invention.

[0040] In figure 19, a device 100 is shown useful to align the different sheets 1 or 11 during the binding, but that can also be used to package and selling sheets according to the invention.

[0041] Said device 100 provides sides 101, 102, 103 placed at 90° each other for the proper positioning of

the various sheets to be bound, as shown in figure 21. Furthermore, device 100 provides a silicone portion 104 avoiding the adhesion of a sheet 1 or 11 if erroneously positioned on the device with the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip uncovered.

[0042] When all sheets 1 have been placed side by side, with the grasping portions 4 of the strip 3 provided on the same side, it will be sufficient to keep the sheets still and pulling the strips 3 grasping the portions 4, in order to remove the strips 3 all together, freeing the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 2 on all sheets and thus obtaining the binding quickly and immediately.

[0043] Also a cover (not shown) can be obviously provided on the sheets bound with the sheets 1 or 11 since it is prepared beforehand according to the invention, or by employing a sheet 1.

[0044] Coming now to observe figures from 7 to 11, it is shown a further embodiment of the sheet according to the invention.

[0045] As in the preceding cases, the sheet 21 provides a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 22, on which a releasable silicone band 23 is provided.

[0046] In this case, the silicone band 23 does not project from the sheet 21, but is wider than the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 22 and the grasping portion 24 is comprised of the part of the band 23 wider than the strip 22.

[0047] When the sheet must be printed, for example in a ink jet or laser printer, portion 24 is folded inward, while it is folded outward when it is bound on the device 100, as shown in figure 11.

[0048] Therefore, after having separated the single sheets, a section of silicone band 23 projects from each sheet 21, acting as grasping element to eliminate the protection of the glue during the binding of the superimposed sheets.

[0049] In figure 12 and 13 a further embodiment of the sheet according to the invention is shown. They are sheets for continuous feeding, e.g. in computer printers.

[0050] In this case, sheet 31, providing a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 32 along the edge, has a silicone band 33, the grasping portion 34 of which does not project from the upper edge of sheet 31, since it is coupled to another sheet 31 of the continuous module, but is on the following sheet (see figure 12), and is coupled with the silicone band 33 of the following sheet by a weakened line 35.

[0051] Therefore, folding the grasping portion 34 outwardly after having detached the sheets, it will be possible to act on all the grasping portions 34 of the various sheets of the continuous module and making the relevant binding, eventually employing the device 110 of figure 19.

[0052] In figures 14, 15 and 16 and 17 and 18, it can be seen the sheet 41 for continuous feeding, wherein the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 42, along with the silicone band 43, is provided on the upper side of the alternated sheets, instead on the lateral edge.

[0053] Solution shown in figures 14, 15 and 16 provides the grasping portion folded upwardly, in such a way to be able to grasp all the grasping portions together, as in the preceding cases.

5 [0054] Instead, sheet 41 of figures 17 and 18 provides the grasping portion 44 firmly and permanently coupled to the holed band of the continuous feeding module. When the holed band 46 is torn away (see figure 18), also the grasping portion 44 is dragged, thus removing the silicone band 43 and realising the binding.

10 [0055] According to the invention, the side of the continuous module providing the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip 42 is preferably folded only with respect to the adjacent sheet, while on the opposite side a tearing line is as usual provided (see figure 16).

15 [0056] Sheets according to the present invention can be freely used also on matrix printers, copying machines and in any other printing machine.

[0057] The solution proposed according to the present invention allows to bind in an easy, resistant and efficient way files having any thickness. The binding step is extremely fast, well finished and immediate, without dirtying and without the need of employing expensive and bulky machines.

20 [0058] Coming now to observe figures from 22 to 28, the adhesive band for binding according the invention can be provided to the consumers in any shape, for example as a roll.

[0059] Furthermore, it can be applied on single sheets manually or by a suitable device, which is not part of the present invention, for example directly provided along the paper path of the printer connected with the computer by which the sheet has been filled in.

25 [0060] Whichever is its structure, band 201 according to the invention, preferably comprised of protection silicone material releasable by the various glues employed, provides a glue zone 202 to be placed on the sheet 203 (see figures 22 and 23 and 24) for coupling with the same in the application zone 104 (see figure 25).

30 [0061] On the continuous band 201, at the end of the glue zone 202, a zone 205 without glue is provided, for the subsequent removal of the silicone material band, followed by a zone 106 serving to reveal, by apparatus or visually, the end of a band section and the beginning of the following one to be applied on another sheet 203.

35 [0062] Obviously, length of each section 201 can be established in function of the dimensions of the sheets to be bound (for example A3, A4, etc. size).

40 [0063] Between the sections of the band 201 a cut 207 is provided for the manual or machine assisted separation.

45 [0064] On the opposite side of the band 201 according to the invention a layer (not shown) of cold activated glue is provided, dimensionally corresponding to the zone 202, which will be useful for the binding of the single sheet 203 with other sheets.

50 [0065] In fact, as it can be noted observing figures 26,

27 and 28, binding of sheets 203 prepared beforehand with the band 201 according to the invention can be carried out in a very simple and fast way.

[0066] Single sheets 203, upon which the band section 201 has been placed, with the zone 205 without glue projecting, as shown in figure 24, are stacked and placed within a squaring device 208, providing at least two raised sides 209 and 210, placed at 90° each other.

[0067] Sheets 203 are placed as shown in figure 28, eventually with an outer cover, and thus the section 205 without glue is pulled, removing the protection layer of the binding glue, comprised of the same silicon material.

[0068] Band 201 according to the invention can be obviously also provided on both sides of the sheet 203, in order to bind a sheet not prepared with the band 201.

[0069] In figure 23 a solution is shown providing, instead of the glue sections 202, both sides adhesive tape sections 211, providing a second support 212 having the glue on the two sides 213 and 214, one of which (214) must adhere on the sheet 203 to be bound, and the second one (213) to be adhered to the sheet 203 that during the binding will be coupled with the sheet 203 having the band 201.

[0070] The present invention has been described for illustrative but not limitative purposes, according to its preferred embodiments, but it is to be understood that modifications and/or changes can be introduced by those skilled in the art without departing from the relevant scope as defined in the enclosed claims.

Claims

1. Sheet prepared beforehand for the binding, characterised in that it provides a glue or both sides adhesive tape strip along at least one of its edges, or close to the same edge, and a silicone material band, releasably placed on said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip and having at least a portion not coupled to said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip to grasp the silicone band during its removal and the binding.
2. Sheet according to claim 1, characterised in that it provides said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip, and the relevant silicone band on both sides, on opposite surfaces.
3. Sheet according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip on the sheets is provided on a lateral edge.
4. Sheet according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip on the sheets is provided on an upper or lower edge.
5. Sheet according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said sheets are realised as a

continuous snap out, provided with lateral dragging bands, said grasping portion of the silicone band being coupled by weakening lines with the band of the following sheet.

6. Sheet according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said silicone band is larger than said glue or both sides adhesive tape strip, and can be folded outwardly during the bonding, said portion of the silicone band larger than the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip being the grasping portion.
7. Sheet according to one of the preceding claims, characterised in that to make its binding, it is superimposed to other sheets to be bound, being them prepared or not according to the invention, and thus the different projecting grasping portion are grasped and drawn at the same time to uncover the various glue or both sides adhesive tape strips.
8. Device for packaging and binding sheets, characterised in that it provides at least two 90° projecting sides upon which resting the sheets to be bound.
9. Device according to claim 8, characterised in that it provides a silicone zone in correspondence of the glue or both sides adhesive tape strip of the sheets to avoid that a sheet attaches to the same device during the binding.
10. Adhesive band to bind loose sheets, characterised in that it comprises a silicone material support, having a substantially elongated shape, slightly attachable by the glue, alternatively providing on one side portions provided with cold activated glue and shorter portions without glue.
11. Adhesive band according to claim 10, characterised in that said band is continuous, at the end of each section the support providing a cut facilitation or breaking lines and/or an optical or mechanical signal to indicate the cutting point to suitable apparatuses to automatically apply it on sheets.
12. Adhesive band according to claim 10 or 11, characterised in that the function of portions without glue is that of being out of the sheet to provide the opportunity of an easy removal of the silicone support which after the application of the glue on the sheet has the function of protecting from eventual gluing not wished before the binding.
13. Adhesive band according to one of the preceding claims 10 - 12, characterised in that said band is wounded, the outer surface of the support band being preferably refractory to the glue.

14. Adhesive band according to one of the preceding claims 10 - 13, characterised in that said support provides both sides adhesive portions, i.e. a second support comprised of any suitable material providing glue on both sides, one of which is destined to adhere to the sheet to be bound, the second one being destined to adhere to the sheet that during the binding will be coupled to the sheet providing the band.

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15. Adhesive band according to one of the preceding claims 10 - 14, characterised in that said band is applied on both sides of a sheet.

16. Adhesive band according to one of the preceding claims 10 - 15, characterised in that said band is applied manually, or by a suitable device, provided along the path within the printer.

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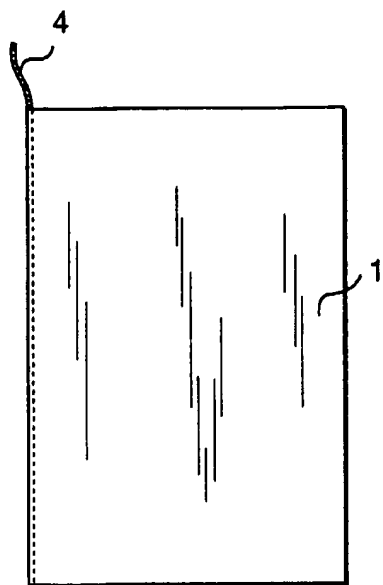


FIG. 1

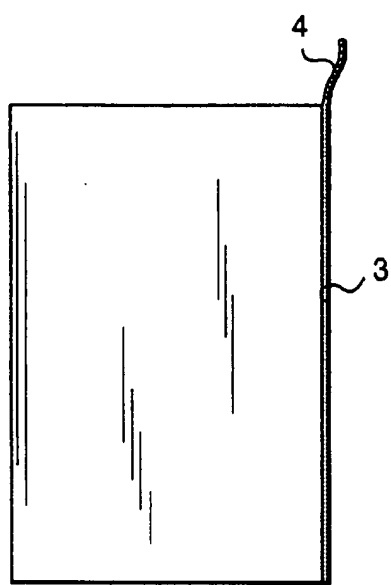


FIG. 2

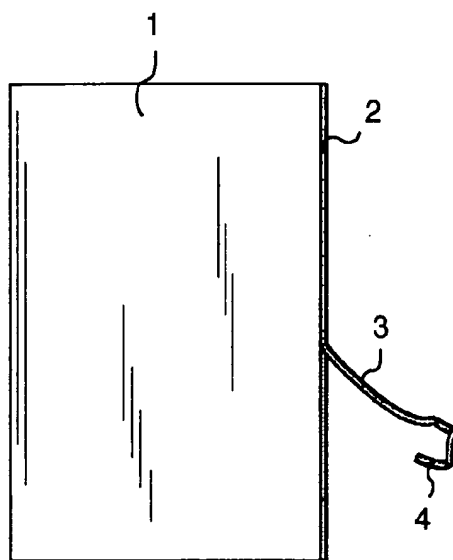


FIG. 3

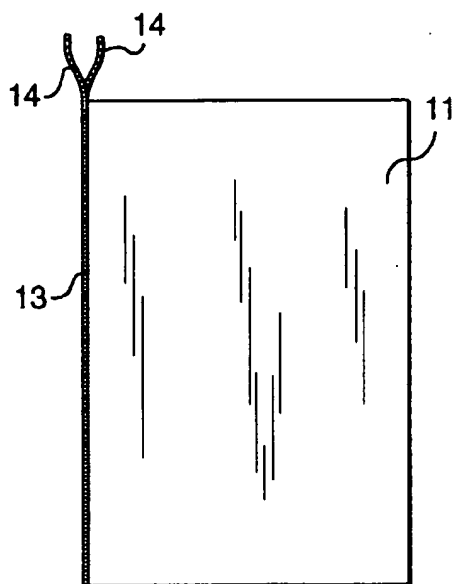


FIG. 4

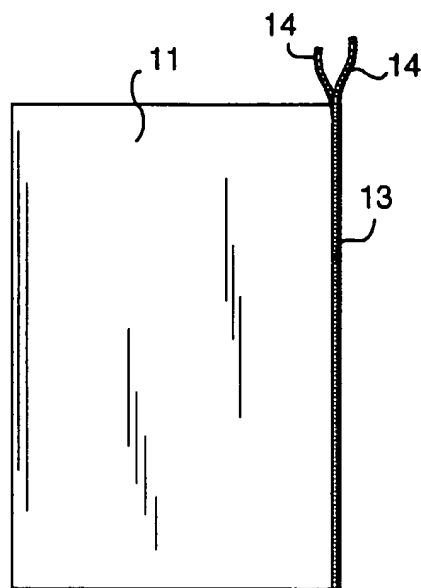


FIG. 5

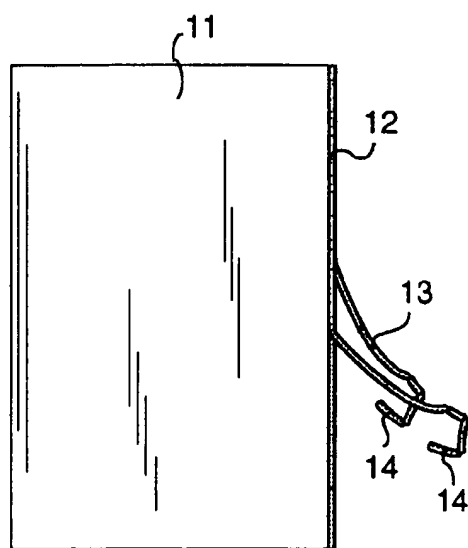


FIG. 6

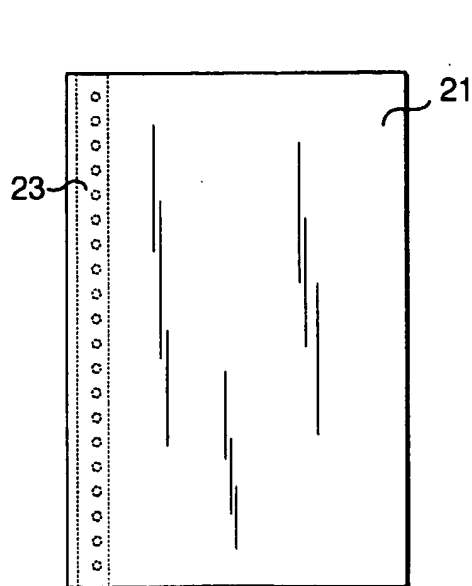


FIG. 7

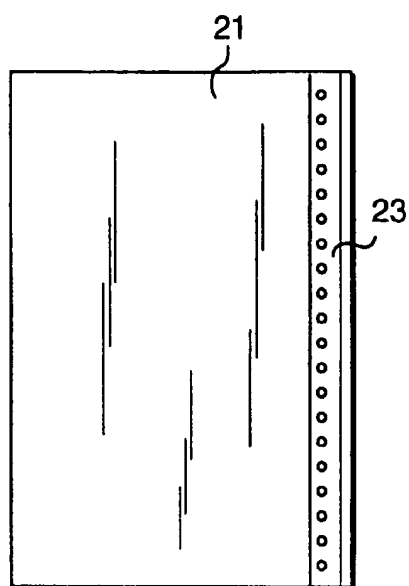


FIG. 8

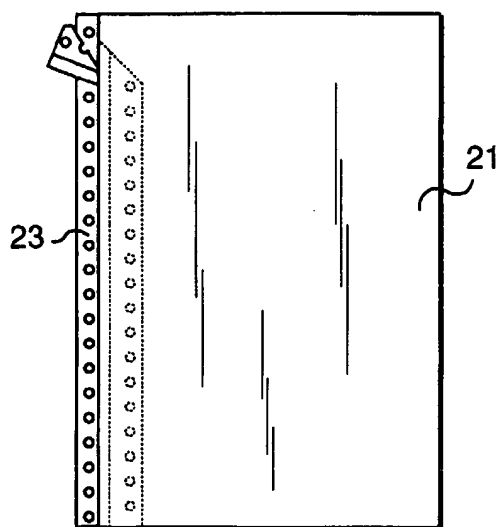


FIG. 9

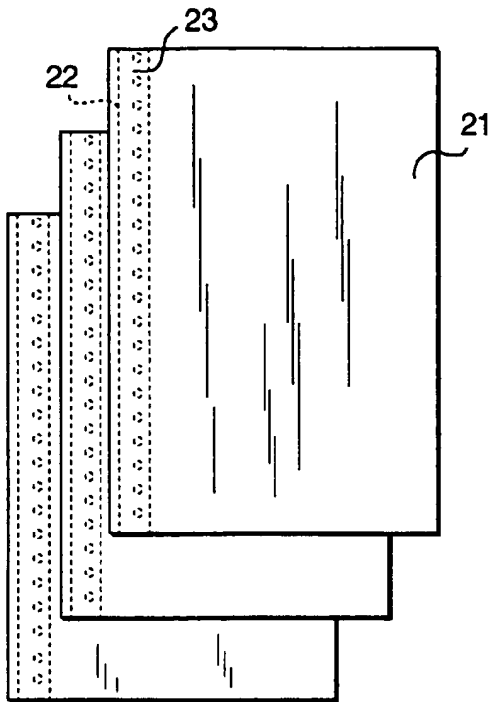


FIG. 10

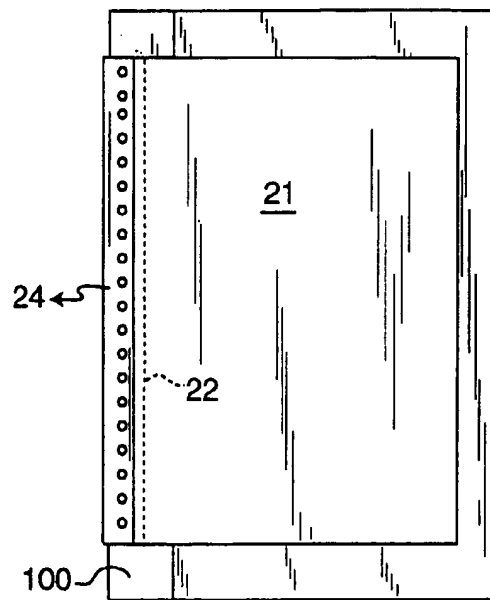


FIG. 11

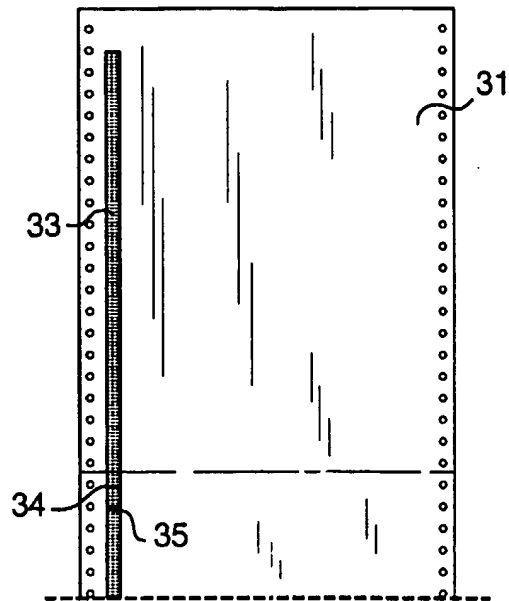


FIG. 12

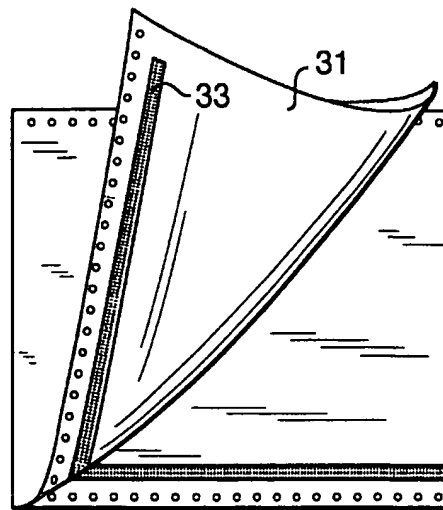


FIG. 13

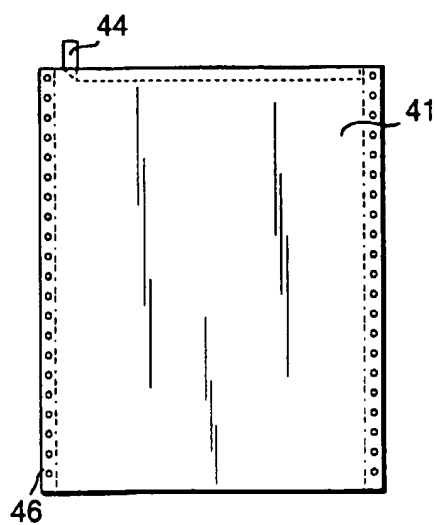


FIG. 14

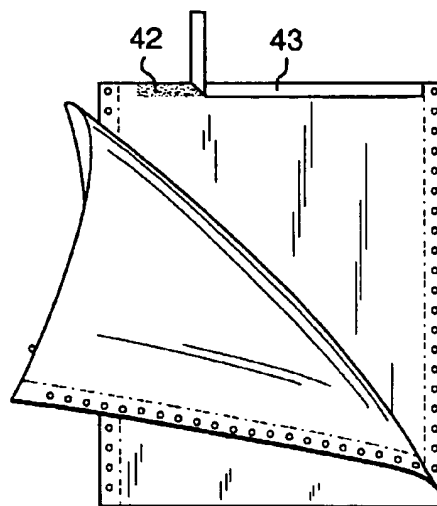


FIG. 15

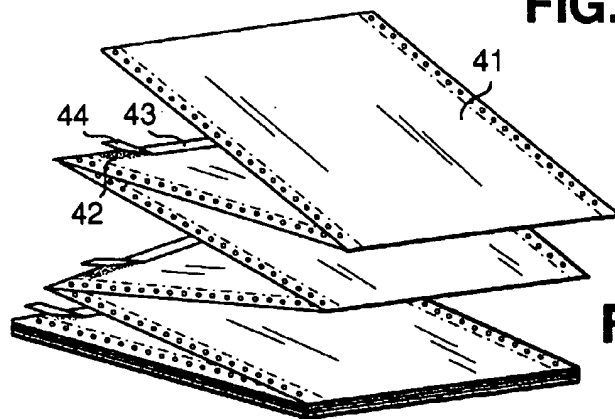


FIG. 16

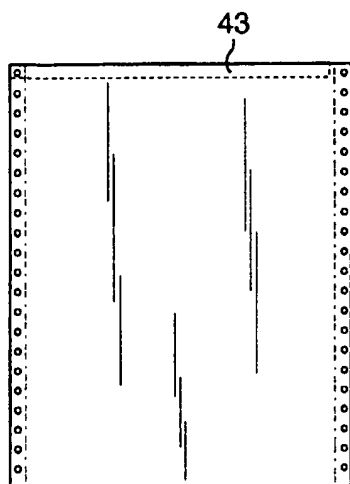


FIG. 17

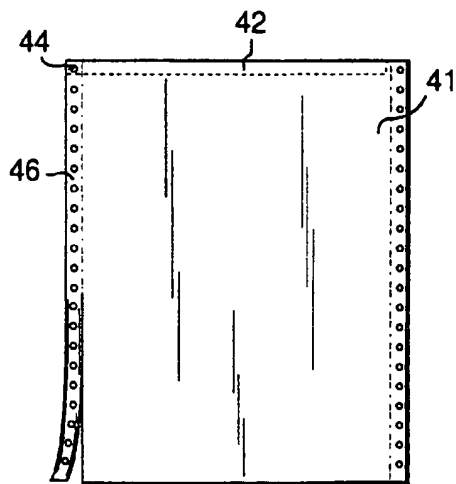


FIG. 18

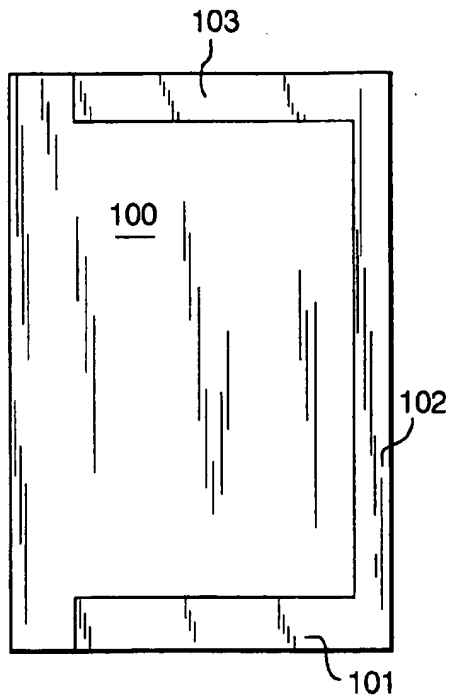


FIG. 19

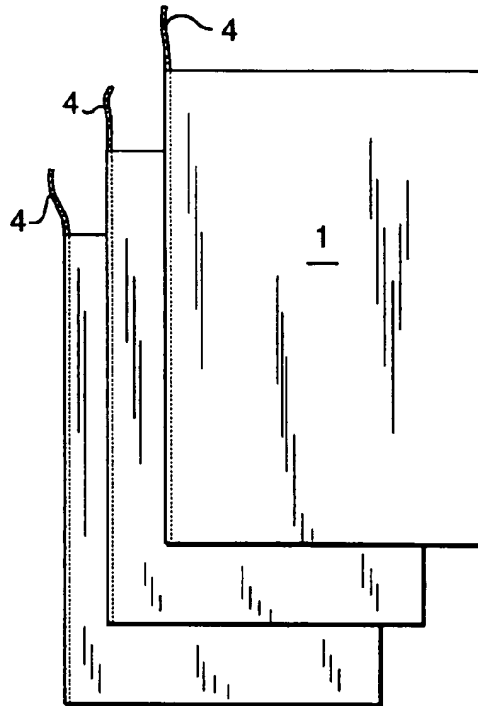


FIG. 20

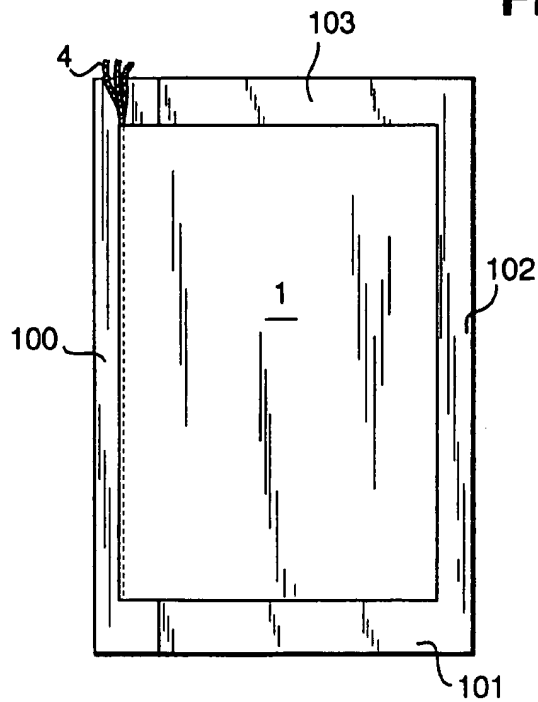


FIG. 21

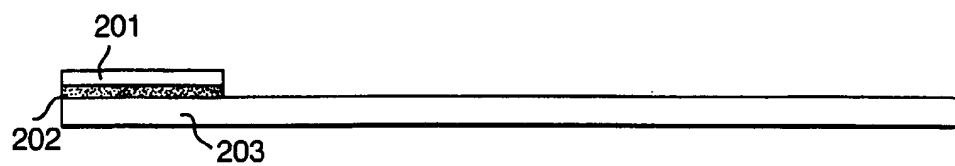


FIG. 22

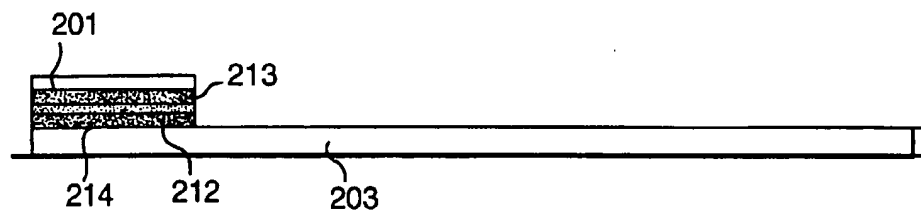


FIG. 23

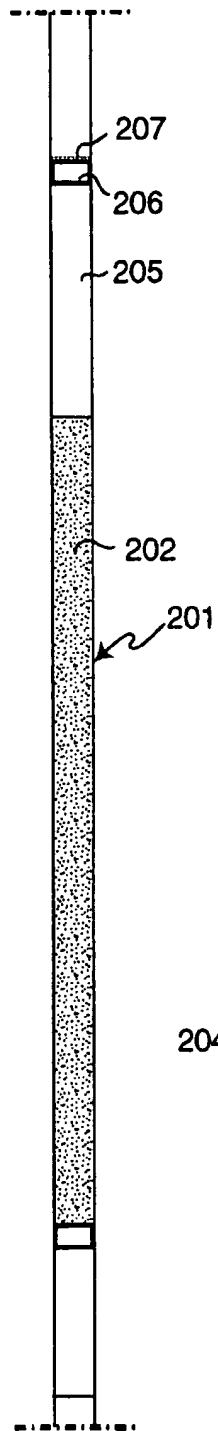


FIG. 24

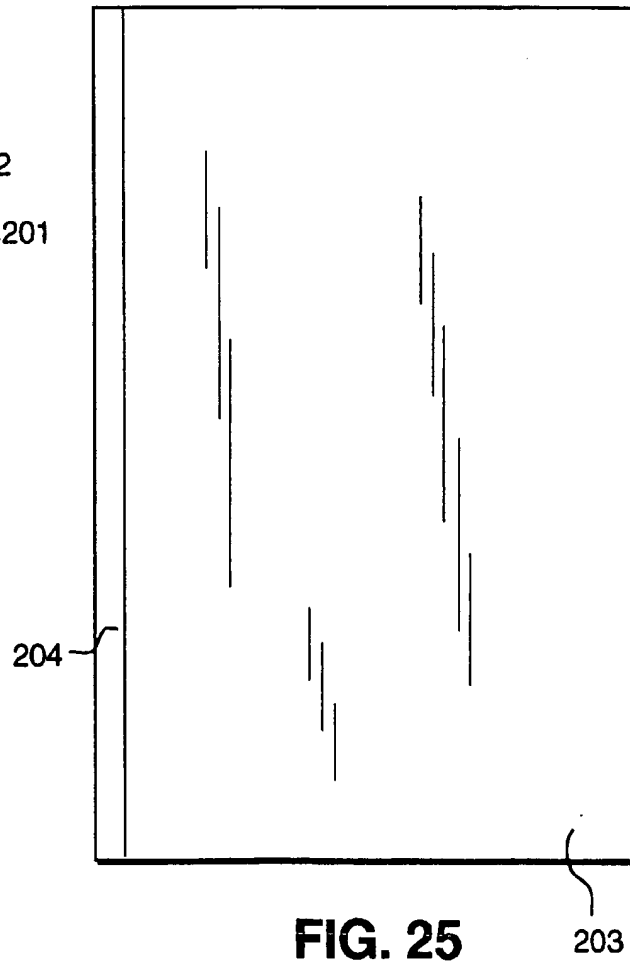


FIG. 25

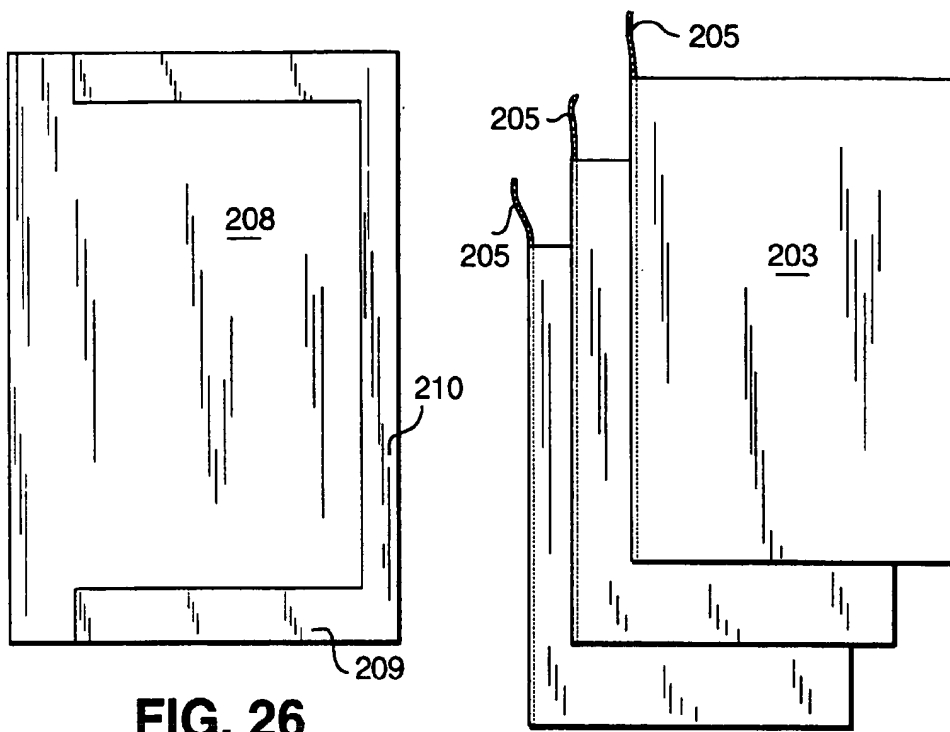


FIG. 26

FIG. 27

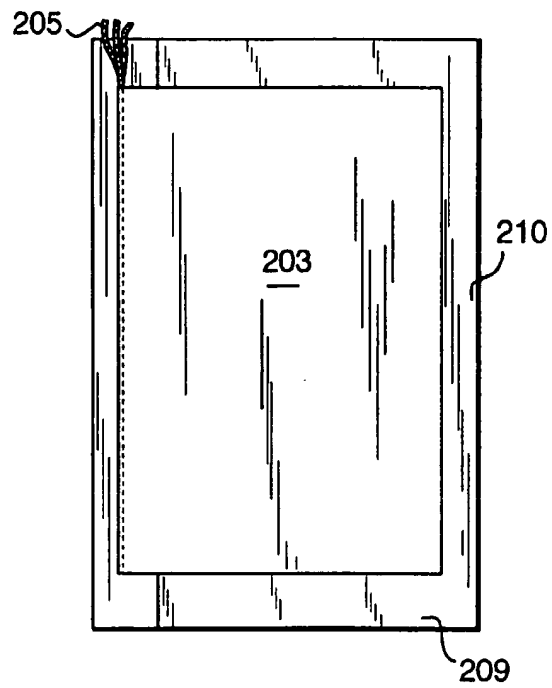


FIG. 28



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 83 0716

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X	GB 2 016 372 A (MOORE BUSINESS FORMS) 26 September 1979 * page 1, line 99 - page 2, line 28; figure 1 *	1-5,10	B42C9/00 B42D13/00
X	US 4 422 672 A (LEVI) 27 December 1983 * column 2, line 31 - column 3, line 38; figures 1-3 *	1,10	
X	US 4 789 187 A (CORLEW, BOLDUE) 6 December 1988 * column 2, line 45 - column 4, line 15; figures 1-6 *	1,10	
X	EP 0 160 519 A (XEROX) 6 November 1985 * page 8, line 23 - line 26; figure 1 *	8	
X	EP 0 387 932 A (MERLIN) 19 September 1990 * column 2, line 4 - line 31; figures 1,2 *	8	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B42C B42D B42F
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 19 March 1999	Examiner Evans, A
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 83 0716

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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